

REMARKS

The Examiner's Action mailed on November 19, 2007, has been received and its contents carefully considered.

In this Amendment, Applicants have amended independent claim 1. Support for the amendment to claim 1 can be found from at least page 17 of the original disclosure. Claim 1 is the independent claim and is the only claim pending in the application. For at least the following reasons, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

The Examiner has rejected claim 1 as being obvious over *Patil et al.* in view of *Takegawa*. It is submitted that this claim is *prima facie* patentably distinguishable over the cited references for at least the following reasons.

Applicants' independent claim 1 recites that a second cushion member, comprised of rubber or a material having rubber-like characteristics, is installed at a lower surface of a bearing, and comes in contact with an upper surface of the ball nut at a maximum ascent stroke position of the internal cylinder. Thus, when the internal cylinder strokes up to its maximum ascent position, the second cushion member will come into contact with the ball nut to absorb shock of the ball nut resulting from a sudden collision. Further, the second cushion member can be utilized as a stopper for restraining a further ascent stroke of the internal cylinder. In contrast, the cited reference does not disclose or suggest such a second cushion member.

The Examiner's Action has equated a housing that contains a bearing assembly 114 of *Patil et al.* as being a second cushion member. However, from the cross-sectional lines used to illustrate this housing, it is apparent that this housing is made of a metal material, and thus would not serve as a second cushion member, as recited by Applicants' independent claim 1. Moreover, there is certainly no disclosure or suggestion that this housing is comprised of rubber or a material having rubber-like characteristics, as recited by claim 1. Thus, this housing will not absorb the shock of impact, as would Applicants' claimed second

cushion member. Further, *Takegawa* does not overcome this deficiency of *Patil et al.*

Thus, it is submitted that Applicants' independent claim 1 is *prima facie* patentably distinguishable over the cited references. It is requested that this claim be allowed and that this rejection be withdrawn.

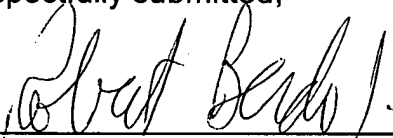
It is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. Such action, and the passing of this case to issue are requested.

Should the Examiner feel that a conference would help to expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned counsel to arrange for such an interview.

Should any fee be required, the Director is hereby authorized to charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 18-0002.

Respectfully submitted,

Feb. 7, 2008
Date


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